News release

On your bike

10 June 2002

Scientists from the Met Office will be cycling through the region this week as part of a 200-mile sponsored ride from the weather service's current home in Bracknell to Exeter, where the office will relocate next year.

Staff at the Met Office are encouraged to use alternative forms of transport to the car, and the nine cyclists often travel to work on their bikes. On June 15-18, as part of National Bike Week, they will be cycling from Berkshire to Devon, taking in the Kennet and Avon Canal, the Mendip Hills and Somerset Levels, following the National Cycle Network where possible.

Bruce Ingleby, leader of the team and Met Office scientist said: "The ride will be challenging but enjoyable - you get much more feel for the countryside on a bike than in a car."

Dave Screen, staff travel manager, said: "When we come to Exeter we will have a comprehensive travel plan to minimise the effect on the local area. This bike ride demonstrates our staff's empathy with the environment."

The team is hoping to raise at least £1,000, to be shared between the Devon Wildlife Fund and the sustainable transport charity Sustrans.

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